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UTD.



MATCH MAGAZINE No. 20

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Football
League
Division 4



Friday
March 14th
1980

WIGAN ATHLETIC

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Opening Lines....

Promotion not possible? I do not believe it has passed us by yet, though we are making it harder with every point dropped — particularly the "four pointer" with Bradford City. The players gave everything they had but unfortunately that was not enough on the night. Bradford are a very experienced side and have players who have played at a higher level and have a good track record. Yet I wonder if they win promotion, whether they will in fact be good enough to stay in the Third Division. Can their players improve as they will need to? Only time will tell, but I'm not so sure that they can.

I am trying to build a side that can achieve both these things if we do win promotion. As you know we prefer to sign young players here and in most cases this represents an element of chance. But I will back my own judgement and will not sit on the fence by spending our hard earned money on experienced players in whom I have certain doubts. The players I sign must be of good ability; want to play, and be prepared to give this club good service. Players with this type of character are not only hard to find but in many places difficult to attract to Torquay.

Mike Green

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Aug 18	Scunthorpe United — Mr D. Brooking, Yelland Stores, 93 Barton Hill Road, Torquay.	Dec 26	Newport County — Walt Hatherley Memorial Ball.
Sept 1	NORTHAMPTON TN — Torbay School of English.	Dec 29	Crewe Alexandra — London Branch of Supporters
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Sept 19	Hereford United — Renwick's Travel.	Feb 9	Hartlepool United — The Walton Family.
Sept 29	Darlington — R.N.I.B. Manor House, Torquay.	Feb 23	Walsall — Hidesway Club, Temperance St. Torquay
Oct 10	Portsmouth — Maurice Wills, Imperial Hotel Club.	Mar 5	Bradford City — Gulls Travel Club
Oct 15	Wolves — Williams & Glyns Bank Ltd., Torquay.	Mar 14	Wigan Athletic — Mid-Devon Auto-Electrical Ltd.
Oct 20	Aldershot — Malcolm Rennie, Basingstoke, Hants	Mar 29	Port Vale — Herald Express.
		Apr 2	Stockport County — Gulls Travel Club.
		Apr 7	A.F.C. Bournemouth — Williams & Glyns Bank Ltd.
		Apr 19	Tranmere Rovers — W.H. Motors, Sands Rd Garage
		May 3	Lincoln City — Metcalfe Hambleton, Estate Agents

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Wigan Athletic

Manager: Ian McNeill
Ground: Springfield Park.
Capacity 30,000
Record Attendance: 27,500 v
Hereford United, F.A.Cup,
1953-54
Pitch Measurements: 117 yds x
73 yds
Colours: Blue and White
striped shirts, blue collar &
cuffs, Blue shorts, White
trim, White stockings
Nickname: The Latics

Year Formed: 1932
Football League Record: 1978 -
Elected to Division 4.
Honours: Northern Premier
League Champions 1970-71,
1974-75, Northern Premier Cup
Winners 1971-72, Northern
Premier Shield Winners
1972-73, 1973-74, 1975-76.
Cheshire League Champions
1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36,
1964-65. Lancashire Combi-
nation Champions 1947-48,
1950-51, 1952-53, 1953-54.

Biggest Victory This Season:
4-1 v Bradford City and v
Scunthorpe - both home.
Biggest Defeat This Season:
0-4 v Huddersfield away.

Points Total Last Season: 55

Goals Scored: 63

Leading Goalscorer: Peter
Houghton, 13

Most Capped Player: None

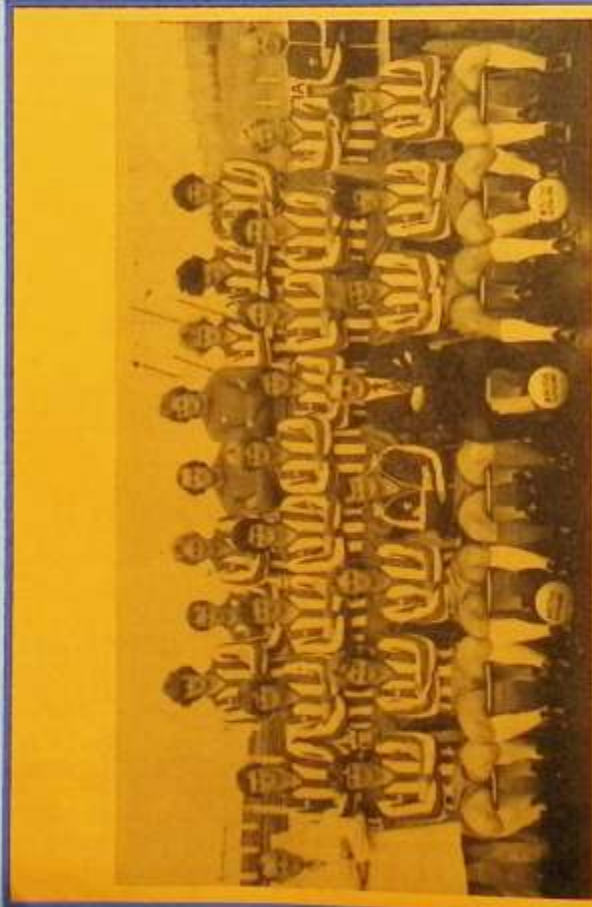
Most League Appearances

Last Season: Tommy Gore, Ian

Purdie, Jeff Wright - all 46

Average Home Gate 1978-79:

6,701



BACK ROW: Noel Ward, Ian Purdie (now Portsmouth), Derek Brownbill, John Brown, Bob Ward, Kevin Smart,
Mike Quinn, John McDermott, CENTRE ROW: Duncan Colquhoun (Physiotherapist), Joe Hinnigan (now
Sunderland), Jeff Wright, George Urquhart, Nigel Hart, Neil Davids, John Curtis, Frank Corrigan, Peter
Houghton, Dave Fretwell, Kenny Banks (Trainer), FRONT ROW: Tommy Gore, Alan Crompton, John Wilkie, Ian
McNeill (Manager), Mr. A.O. Horrocks (Chairman), Micky Moore, Mark Wignall, David Glenn.

Wigan Athletic come here tonight in much the same circumstances as last season in that they seem to have dropped out of the promotion race after having hung on at the fringe of the challenging pack for most of the season. Like ourselves they have hit a bad patch of late and can now only look to gain maximum points from their games in hand at the same time hoping that new recruits, Bradford and Peterborough all let things slip.

Another season of Fourth Division football next season cannot hide the fact that The Latics have done remarkably well since joining the Football League at the beginning of last season. They finished in sixth place last year although they were six points behind fourth placed Barnsley, and had an average gate of 6,701 at their impressive Springfield Park ground. With a capacity of 30,000 there is plenty of room if the club does manage a successful bid for promotion next season and with a population of 300,000 within a five miles radius the gate could be quite spectacular.

It took twenty five attempts before Wigan managed to get into the Football League — and that was a near thing after they had tied with the outgoing Southport on the first vote. Wigan Borough's failure to complete the 1931-32 season in Division Three North had always cast a shadow over the club's attempts to re-gain League status for Springfield Park which had been the home of the old Borough Club. But with Championships of the Northern Premier League in 1970-71 and 1974-75 plus an F.A. Cup run in 1977-78 that took First Division Birmingham City to end it, finally persuaded the League to give the town back first class football after a break of forty six years.

After service with Aberdein as a youngster, **McNEILL** moved into English football playing for Leicester, Brighton and Southend. Eventually he made a name for himself as a non-league manager of quality with Ross County in the Highland League and Wigan in the Northern Premier League. Before they attained League status, Wigan parted company with McNeill but he claimed that they reneged him some time later as he was the

man who was ultimately to take them into the League. Goalkeeper **JOHN BROWN** played League soccer for Preston and Stockport before joining Wigan in the N.P.L. and has now fought back to fitness after having a cartilage removed last Autumn. The recent sale of defender **JOE HINNIGAN** for a Fourth Division record £135,000 to Sunderland has coincided with the team's recent bad run but was undoubtedly a good piece of business for all concerned. Hinnigan's place has gone to Scotsman **RON MCIVOR** who had waited patiently in the Reserves since moving South from Scottish League club East Fife where of course there was only a part-time professional. Central defender **COLIN SMITH** also came from East Fife and he cost the club a record fee of £30,000 last October. Two other centre backs are tough tackling **NEIL DAVIDS** who has been with a number of League clubs and arrived at Springfield Park from Swansea last season, and **DAVE FRETWELL** who made 250 appearances for Bradford City until he got a free transfer in 1978. A very cool player he can be expected to play as the sweeper. Left back **KEVIN SMART** got a free transfer from Plymouth Argyle at the same time and made 40 League appearances for Wigan last season.

Midfielders **TOMMY GORE** and **JEFF WRIGHT** both played for the club in the Northern Premier. Gore loves to attack and has a good shot, he was freed by Trannmere in 1974 but has now developed into a fine player. Wright didn't miss a game last season and is a really good distributor of the ball as well as a model of consistency. On the left, **GEORGE URQUHART** arrived from Ian McNeill's old club Ross County for a nominal fee last September and formerly played for St. Mirren. Striker **PETER HOUGHTON** turned down a move to Portsmouth before Christmas after scoring 14 goals last season including Wigan's goal here at Plainmoor. He should be partnered by **MICKY MOORE** who never really established himself with Port Vale having joined them from Wigan in 1978. He soon returned and last season scored 10 goals in 43 games.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Saturday, December 30th, 1934 (F. A. Can Zed Round)

WIGAN ATHLETIC 3 (Roberts 2, Scott) TORQUAY UNITED 2 (Morgan, Pritchard)

Attendance	20,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	40,000	45,000	50,000	55,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,000	80,000	85,000	90,000	95,000	100,000
Attendance	20,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	40,000	45,000	50,000	55,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,000	80,000	85,000	90,000	95,000	100,000

WILSON, George, Baltimore, Talbot, Peapack, Walnut, Lumball, Adams, Phoenix, Auburn, Feltus, Kent.

TOMQUAY Langford, Gregg, Tapp, Jones, Veach, Ross, Morgan, Bechtel,

Walters, Buchanan, Pruthi.

Wednesday, March 14th, 1979 (Division 4)

WIGAN ATHLETIC F.C. (Moss 2, 1901-1902) TORQUAY UNITED F.C. (Lawrence)

Student	Homework	Class	Midtest	Final	Final	Final
Student	Homework	Class	Midtest	Final	Final	Final

Keywords: smart; hummingbird; lawn; weed; pretreat; lentigines; weight; environment; adverse; quercus

FORQUAY Turner, Clarke, Middle, Twiss, Payne, Dutton, Wilson (Cant),
 1900-1901, 1902-1903.

Lawrence, Roger, Murphy, David.

10

Saturday, April 7th, 1879. (Division 4)

TORQUAY UNITED 1 (Pryor) WIDAN ATHLETIC 1 (Houghton)

[illegible]

COOPER, J. WILSON (MURPHY), CREDIT.

WISANI: Brown, Currie, Smart, Gunn, Ward, Freeman, Corrigan, Wright, Monte,

Houghton, Purdue.

Saturday, October 4th, 1979 (Division 4)

WIGAN ATHLETIC FC TORQUAY UNITED FC (Barnesville, Devon, England)

Attendances: 6, 54
 1914-15: 100
 1915-16: 100
 1916-17: 100
 1917-18: 100
 1918-19: 100
 1919-20: 100
 1920-21: 100
 1921-22: 100
 1922-23: 100
 1923-24: 100
 1924-25: 100
 1925-26: 100
 1926-27: 100
 1927-28: 100
 1928-29: 100
 1929-30: 100
 1930-31: 100
 1931-32: 100
 1932-33: 100
 1933-34: 100
 1934-35: 100
 1935-36: 100
 1936-37: 100
 1937-38: 100
 1938-39: 100
 1939-40: 100
 1940-41: 100
 1941-42: 100
 1942-43: 100
 1943-44: 100
 1944-45: 100
 1945-46: 100
 1946-47: 100
 1947-48: 100
 1948-49: 100
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 2046-47: 100
 2047-48: 100
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 2049-50: 100
 2050-51: 100
 2051-52: 100
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 2098-99: 100
 2099-00: 100
 2100-01: 100
 2101-02: 100
 2102-03: 100
 2103-04: 100
 2104-05: 100
 2105-06: 100
 2106-07: 100
 2107-08: 100
 2108-09: 100
 2109-10: 100
 2110-11: 100
 2111-12: 100
 2112-13: 100
 2113-14: 100
 2114-15: 100
 2115-16: 100
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 2119-20: 100
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 2142-43: 100
 2143-44: 100
 2144-45: 100
 2145-46: 100
 2146-47: 100
 2147-48: 100
 2148-49: 100
 2149-50: 100
 2150-51: 100
 2151-52: 100
 2152-53: 100
 2153-54: 100
 21

November 28, Monday, Houghton.

TONQUAY: Turner, Northard, Ritchie (Cullin), Vagstad, Bauma, Bernhardt, Dastok,

Lawrence, Cooper, Twichell, Murray.



Peter Coffill heading for goal against Walsall.



Steve Cooper gets up for a cross.



Donal Murphy beats the keeper to the ball.



Roy Davies' shot from close in clears the bar.

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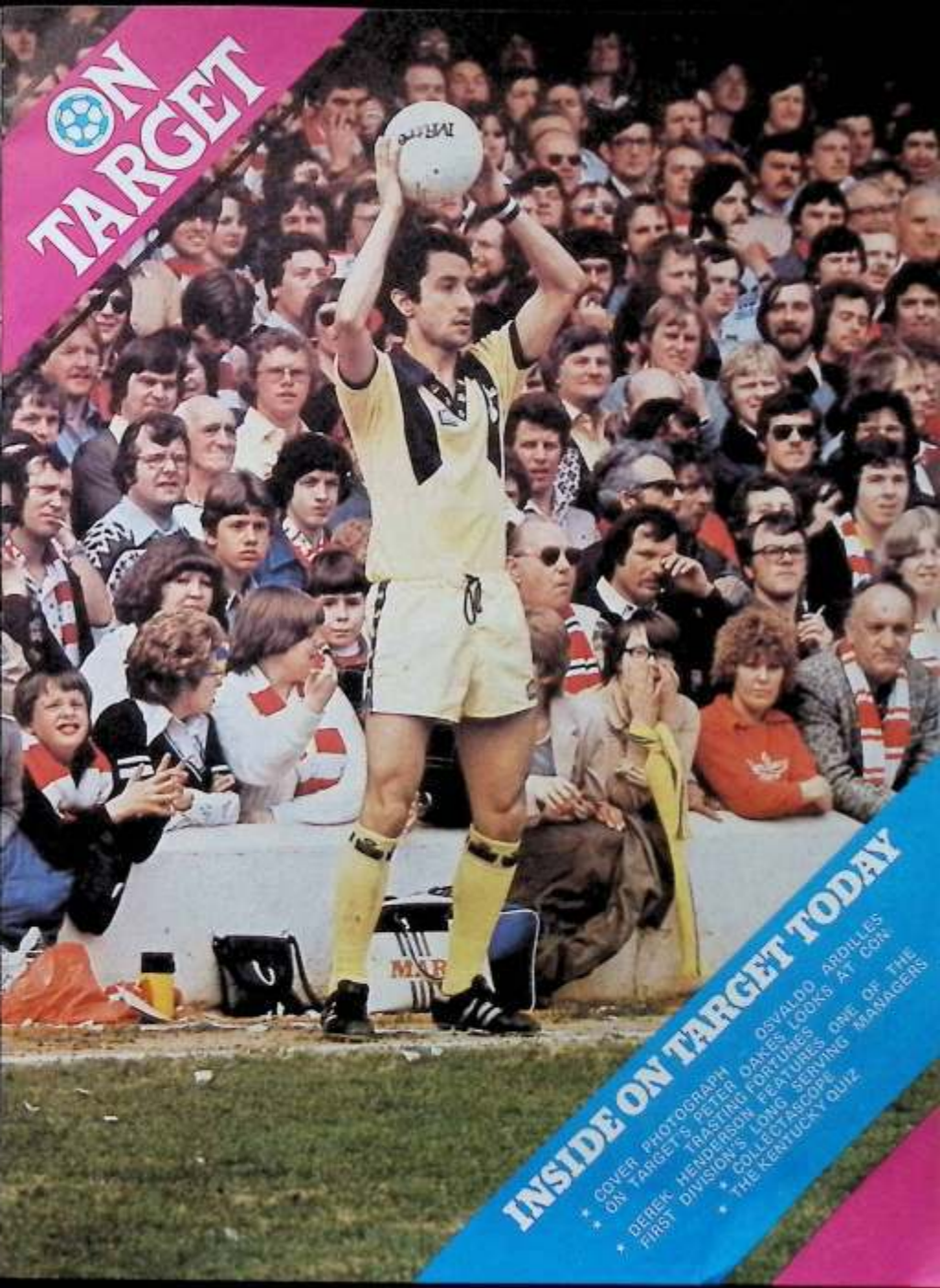
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Coventry City are the only club never to have been relegated from the First Division. For that they must be eternally grateful to two men - Noel Cantwell and Gordon Milne.

Of the two, Cantwell had unquestionably the more difficult job in this respect. For he took the managerial reins from Jimmy Hill within a couple of months of the Sky Blues' arrival in Division 1 in 1957 and somehow survived two hairbreadth situations in which Coventry escaped going down by margins so close as to be frightening.

One even went to goal average. But by the time Coventry were better established and Cantwell went the inevitable way - sacked because gates were falling and the club was losing its appeal - the relegation-fighting business had eased.

Nevertheless, Gordon Milne has done extremely well to steer Coventry along a safe if unspectacular line since. Only once was Division 1 staring them in the face, and along with Bristol City they did another Houdini act.

With three clubs going up and down each year, it is something of an achievement to stay in the First Division, even if trophies aren't coming your way.

The only real criticism that can be levelled at Gordon Milne is that he has failed to fashion a side capable of landing a major trophy if not the League itself, then certainly one of the two cup competitions.

Coventry do not possess a cup-fighting tradition as do clubs like Newcastle and Villa and this has always been something of a handicap. Somehow the important ingredient has been missing and Milne hasn't been able to find it.

But one cannot fault his ideals. For he believes in going forward positively in search of goals. It is a conviction that has often led his side into trouble and, on the odd occasion, forced him to change tactics and go defensive for a game where the result is more important than the spectacle.

But by and large, it has meant that the Coventry fan-club count on seeing adventurous, attacking football once a fortnight at Highfield Road even though they would like to see their team possess a little more consistency.

Gordon's initial spell as team manager with the club came about as a result of the impression he left with Joe Mercer. Mercer knew Gordon's dad, Jimmy - a well-known former Preston manager - and was well aware that the pedigree was there.

So, when Coventry were confronted by Mercer's offer to follow Cantwell and accepted it, he took Gordon with him as his No. 2. And when later Mercer stepped down and joined the board of directors - where his famous smile and warmth have an important influence even now - Milne became No. 1.

He was in danger of departing only once. But on this occasion Jimmy Hill stepped in and persuaded his fellow-directors to keep faith with their manager.

This is why Milne, Alan Dicks (Bristol City) and Bobby Robson (Ipswich) are the longest-serving First Division chiefs and it says much for their clubs that they have kept things stable while around them the usual chopping and changing continues with monotonous regularity.



One of Milne's greatest achievements was to reduce Coventry's massive overdraft at the bank and put them into a sound financial situation with the shrewd selling and buying of players.

It meant parting with such favourites as Willie Carr, Dennis Mortimer and Larry Lloyd but the thing had to be done. Coventry obviously couldn't carry on with such an awesome deficit hanging over them.

Looking at Coventry's playing staff, one is led to the conclusion that Milne has some way to go yet before he can mould a side capable of challenging for the championship.

But the cups are a different matter, with their short burst atmosphere and it is here where Milne hopes his eight-year spell at Highfield Road will soon begin to pay off.

For the time being he remains without a major trophy to his credit as a manager but one must admire his ideals and the way in which he has stuck by them through thick and thin.

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NEW FOOTBALL WEEKLY NEWS

WHAT A DIFFERENCE In Target's Peter Oakes looks Malcolm Allison and his Plymouth

A lot has happened in Bobby Saxton's first year at Plymouth Argyle.

And equally Malcolm Allison's initial twelve months back at Maine Road haven't been noted for their uneventfulness!

It was when Allison gave in his notice at Home Park to return to Lancashire where he had first earned his name and reputation in tandem with Joe Mercer that the Plymouth directors turned to Bobby Saxton, then managing Exeter City on a shoestring, to take over.

While Allison's return to Manchester City was filled with headlines Saxton's move down the road created little impact outside Devon and Cornwall.

And the times since have been equally contrasting in character.

Big Mal moved in with all the stealth of a Sherman tank and within a few months had been given complete charge of team operations with Tony Book pushed sideways but content to see out his contract.

Just in case anyone is feeling too much sympathy for Book let it be remembered that it was Allison who took him from obscurity of non-league soccer at Bath City to the glories of captained Manchester City in First Division, F.A.Cup, League Cup and European Cup Winners Cup success when most players are thinking of retirement.

Book was playing for the then Southern League Bath City when Allison arrived as manager and then took Book with him to Plymouth Argyle at the late age of 28



Gary Megson in action at Home Park versus Torquay United.



Alan Rogers during his Home Park days before his transfer to Portsmouth.

and then on to Maine Road and gave Book more than five years of memories that he must have thought beyond him as he was playing regularly for the Southern League part-timers.

Maybe that explains why Book has been content to live under Allison's shadows at Maine Road this season....

But back to Allison. He spent widely (and many claim unwisely) as he decided that the nucleus of his inherited Manchester City side had to go.

Asa Hartford, Peter Barnes, Dave Watson and Mick Channon — internationals all — had to go as Allison set about buying a side that would be his in both style and ownership.

He spent freely in the lower divisions and claims: "If we can survive this season then we will become a very good side."

Not even a shock 1-0 cup defeat at Halifax that ruined his New Year can convince Allison otherwise — although his current tenancy begins to look less and less secure.

Down at the club he left Plymouth Argyle the opposite is true. Saxton has never looked safer than he does now after an exercise of precarious sensitivity.

He took over a vast, highly paid staff more suited to a First Division budget than one depending on the success of a record-breaking lottery and gates averaging little more than 5,000 a fortnight.

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CE A YEAR MAKES... s at the contrasting fortunes of h Argyle successor Bobby Saxton



Keith Fear — No contract for him at Brentford.

And then had difficulty shedding those players he didn't want as their handsome wages made them reluctant to accept terms elsewhere.

For the first few months of the current season Saxton looked as if he might pay dearly for many of Allison's decisions.

He found players of some reputation and standing difficult to deal with and dressing room discontent quickly bred disharmony and poor results.

Eventually came the crunch — and at the end of it Saxton came out the winner — and in a far stronger position. Before a final showdown that saw four regular first team members from Allison's days (and indeed Saxton's early weeks at Home Park) either transfer listed or sacked.

The highly talented Gary Megson, in the last 12 months of a contract and seemingly determined to sign his next agreement with a club playing higher grade football than Argyle, was transfer-listed along with leading scorer Fred Binney and winger Alan Rogers.

Ex-Bristol City midfielder Keith Fear, dropped by Saxton early in his reign at Home Park, was handed his own registration and given permission to see his future elsewhere without the worry of persuading a new club to pay any fee.

Rogers soon found a new base and is playing a vital role in Portsmouth's bid to climb back into the Third Division; Fear went to Brentford on trial, but was then released by them; and Megson sat on the sidelines, training alone or with his father Don in a public park in his native Bristol, until Saxton announced that he was willing to let him leave on a loan basis with a view to a permanent transfer.



Fred Binney — Several clubs in line for his services.



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Within hours a posse of First Division clubs were on the phone and it was Everton's Gordon Lee who won the race for his temporary signature from Wolves.

Of the four 'rebels' only Binney was still waiting to be fixed up at the beginning of the year although he, too, was not short of offers.

Several clubs, notably Hereford United, saw him as an answer to their striking problems but no move materialised as player and club fell out over the fine print in his contract.

Having made such a stand against four players — two of whom were held very close to the hearts of the majority of Argyle fans — Saxton then went on his way to proving his decisions were correct.

He made several signings and while none of them were of earth-shattering quality they were players he wanted — and needed.

Goalkeeper Geoff Crudgington, an ever-present as Swansea climbed from Third to Second Division, came from the Vetch Field; and Saxton returned to his old club Exeter City for the second time to sign out-of-favour striker John Sims.

Earlier in the season he had signed goalkeeper Geoff Crudgington from Swansea [after he had been an ever-present in their climb from Third Division to Second]; Carlisle's leading scorer David Kemp in one of the bargain deals of 1979; Forbes Phillipson-Masters from the reserves of First Division Southampton [a player Saxton had tried to sign while at Exeter] and from St. James' Park Welshman Collin Randall.

Several positional switches were also part of the Saxton manoeuvres so that when the New Year dawned he had sorted out a team that WANTED to play for him.

Admits Saxton: "No matter how good a player is if he hasn't got his heart and soul in playing for you he's not worth keeping. It was a very difficult time to go to Plymouth and to begin with it was a hard struggle."



Stoke City 'keeper Roger Jones saves from Fred Binney at Home Park.

"But I never gave up hope because I believe in my own ability and my own judgement of players. I joined Plymouth because I felt as a club it had a lot of ambition and a lot to offer me. I still think that way and the directors have shown they are ambitious with the way they have backed me in making some moves that might have been unpopular at the time."

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SPORT & LEISURE

COLLECTASCOPE

By Don Smith Football Historian

A VIEW OF OUR SOCCER HERITAGE

In these days of general economy and cut backs, I wonder just how long the Reserves Leagues will continue in their present form?

Collecting items connected with Reserve Football has always been an irksome task, take today's match a first team one, but to obtain a copy of today's Reserve away team fixture that presents quite a few problems. Some clubs issue about fifty team sheets for Directors, Press, Players, few go on sale to the general public. So how do you obtain a copy? Well you could write away to the club, always if doing this drop a letter well before the date of the match, enclose the remittance plus a large stamped addressed envelope, this should ensure a copy, but even this method has its pitfalls, sometimes not even a reply. I have over my collecting years established contacts with fellow collectors so the swap system works quite well, I purchase some spares for the home fixture, my pal does likewise for the away fixture. Many programmes for Reserve games pre-war, and even up to the mid 1960's were of the highest standard, then falling gates, produced the now familiar austerity single sheet issues, some are crudely produced, typed then run off on poor quality paper, some are even just a photo-copy.

When I look back at my pre-war issues, photos, comments, numerous advertisements, sometimes I think that the demise of the Reserve match programme is also due to apathy by local advertisers who think that programmes are never read, so do not bother to support the local club, I personally will always try to use the services of a programme advertiser.

One of the best accounts of Reserve football, can be read in John Moynihan's "Soccer Syndrome" published S.B.C. 1968, the chapter which is called "The Vultures" John's vision of the mid-week "Stiffs" matches are known to most of us, I quote "The merciless men in dirty torn overcoats, mud-stained brothel creepers and hair drooping over their collars in thick crusts of oil and dandruff. There were sadists, unemployed barrack-room lawyers, and randy labourers on the skive. They were merciless and full of wit, howls of laughter as the home winger went past the balding left-back so that the victim slithered in the mud, his mouth hanging open so that you could see the darkness where his false teeth usually hung."

"Hey, Lofty, put your false teeth back in".

So don't throw away these team-sheets, keep them for at today's Reserve match a new Sir Stanley Matthews might be making his debut.

The Collectascope features are written by Don Smith of 15 Abingdon Road, Plymouth, advice on any aspect of soccer memorabilia collecting invited, also items which you might wish to dispose of purchased.



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by John Hughes, Editor of On Target

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5. What is the Club nickname.
6. Name the Club ground.
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9. To which club was Billy Jennings sold in 1974.

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Western League Results

5. Aug	18	Ottley St. Mary	A k.o. 2.00pm	3-2
6. Aug	22	Hereford United	H k.o. 7.30pm	1-0
7. Aug	22	L.C. Chippenden	A k.o. 3.00pm	5-0
8. Aug	22	Brixham United	A k.o. 6.30pm	0-2
9. Sep	1	Exmouth Town	H k.o. 3.00pm	3-4
10. Sep	1	Wellington	H k.o. 3.00pm	1-1
11. Sep	15	Bath City	A k.o. 3.00pm	1-4
12. Sep	22	L.C. Glanochury	H k.o. 3.00pm	3-2
13. Sep	26	Leknash	H k.o. 7.30pm	1-2
14. Sep	26	Glastonbury	A k.o. 3.00pm	3-3
15. Oct	3	Ottley St. Mary	H k.o. 7.30pm	3-3
16. Oct	3	Card Town	H k.o. 3.00pm	6-3
17. Oct	10	Westland-Yevill	H k.o. 3.00pm	5-3
18. Oct	17	Emmott	H k.o. 7.30pm	0-0
19. Oct	20	Larkhall Athletic	A k.o. 3.00pm	2-2
20. Oct	27	Wellington Town	A k.o. 3.00pm	0-2
21. Nov	3	Sweeney T. & Herston	H k.o. 2.45pm	4-0
22. Nov	10	Chippenden	H k.o. 2.00pm	5-1
23. Nov	17	L.C. Mangotsfield Utd	H k.o. 3.00pm	1-3
24. Nov	24	Melksham Town	H k.o. 2.30pm	0-1
25. Dec	8	Bath City	A k.o. 3.00pm	2-4
26. Dec	15	Weymouth United	A k.o. 3.00pm	2-0
27. Dec	22	Chippenden	A k.o. 2.30pm	1-2
28. Dec	29	Radstock Town	A k.o. 2.30pm	1-1
29. Jan	5	Sweeney T. & Herston	A k.o. 2.30pm	5-1
30. Jan	12	Larkhall Ath.	A k.o. 2.30pm	2-1
31. Jan	19	Melksham Town	A k.o. 2.45pm	2-1
1. Feb	26	Bristol Manor Farm	H k.o. 2.45pm	2-1
2. Feb	2	Chippenden Town	H k.o. 3.00pm	0-1
3. Feb	9	Glastonbury	H k.o. 3.00pm	1-0
4. Feb	16	Old Diver	A k.o. 3.00pm	2-1
5. Feb	23	Chippenden Town	A k.o. 3.00pm	0-0
6. Mar	1	Radstock Town	H k.o. 3.00pm	2-1
7. Mar	8	Yewell Town	H k.o. 7.30pm	0-0
8. Mar	15	Westland-Yevill	A k.o. 3.00pm	0-0
9. Mar	22	Emmott Town	H k.o. 7.30pm	0-0
10. Mar	29	Sweeney T. & Herston	H k.o. 2.00pm	0-0
11. Mar	6	Brixham United	H k.o. 7.30pm	0-0
12. Mar	13	Devizes Town	A k.o. 3.00pm	0-0

To be arranged:
Melksham T. (A)

RESERVE TEAM GOALSCORERS

Cox 15, Boulton 16, Williams 16, Bowden 4, Levy 4, Marmion 4, Martelli 3, West 3, Corfield 2, Foster 2, Larmour 2, Dewell 1, Davies 1, Kelly 1, Perrett 1, Mickle 1, Duffin 1, Wilson 1.

LEAGUE DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	G.Dif
Wellsall	36	20	2	14	2	60	31	54
Huddersfield	35	19	8	7	9	40	48	+29
Peterborough	35	19	8	7	24	29	46	+35
Bradford	35	18	9	8	63	45	42	+18
Newport	34	18	6	10	59	39	42	+20
Peterborough	36	17	8	11	47	34	42	+13
Aldershot	34	14	8	12	49	38	36	+10
Lincoln	34	13	10	11	47	37	36	+10
Terquay Utd	32	13	9	10	53	44	39	+9
Northampton	35	13	9	13	41	53	35	+12
Wigan	31	14	6	11	50	49	34	+1
Bournemouth	35	9	15	11	40	39	33	+1
Hellifax	32	12	9	13	33	39	33	+6
Torquay	34	11	10	13	50	49	32	+1
Warrington	34	12	8	14	43	43	32	+1
Stamford	31	11	14	14	45	40	30	+1
Hertford	33	11	8	14	45	40	30	+1
Port Vale	33	9	10	16	44	53	28	-9
Darlington	36	7	14	15	41	59	28	-18
York	35	9	18	12	52	70	27	-18
Scunthorpe	33	9	9	15	39	60	27	-21
Hareford	35	8	10	17	30	43	26	-13
Crew Alex.	33	5	10	20	28	59	23	-33
Rochdale	33	5	10	18	28	64	20	-36

WESTERN LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	G.Dif	
Huddersfield	21	12	2	7	13	43	23	+13	
Sheff Wed	21	12	2	7	13	43	23	+13	
Sheff Utd	21	12	2	7	13	43	23	+13	
Leeds	21	12	2	7	13	43	23	+13	
Sheff Mon	21	12	2	7	13	43	23	+13	
Sheff Ths	21	12	2	7	13	43	23	+13	
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NEWS



DESK

Can anyone help Mrs M. Hillman of 2 Melingey Mill, Bolingey, Perranporth, Cornwall obtain copies of our programmes from 1945-50. If so she would appreciate hearing from you with the prices you wish to sell them for.

Tonight's Match Ball Donors are Mid-Devon Auto-Electrical Ltd of Pottery Road, Brimley, Bovey Tracey and we thank them for their kind gesture.

Next Tuesday the First Team play at Northampton and on Saturday next at York. Anyone keen enough to drive to these fixtures will need to take the M.5 to its intersection with the M.4 (Eastbound) at Almondsbury and then leave at junction 16 and pick up the A420 for Oxford via Swindon. Leave Oxford by the A421 and pick up the A43 signposted Northampton. On entering the town follow signs Kettering A43 into Kettering Road, in 0.9m turn right into Abington Avenue for the County Ground. Tel: 0604-31553. The programmes (newspaper type) cost 20p and we shall be playing in all yellow. For York take the M.5 to its intersection with the M.6 (Southbound) and leave the M.6 at junction 6. Take the A38 to Derby and follow signs "The North-M.1". On joining the M.1 stay on the motorway until junction 32 (M.18). Follow this motorway to the A1(M) Northbound carriageway (near Doncaster) and stay on the A1 until its junction with the A.64. Follow signs to

York via Tadcaster, and pass through the city centre following signs "Thirsk A19" into Bootham. Cross railway bridge and take 2nd right for Bootham Crescent. Tel: 0204-24447 where the programmes are free on entry plus 10p for every extra copy. We shall probably play in all yellow.

Tomorrow night is 1920s Nite in the Social Club with George Elliott on Organ and the rest of the immediate programme is as follows:

Sunday 16th March
Tuesday 18th
Wednesday 19th

Thursday 20th
Friday 21st
Saturday 22nd

Sunday 23rd
Tuesday 25th
Wednesday 26th

Thursday 27th
Friday 28th

Cabaret with John Haig on Organ
Bingo Night
Charity Night with John Haig on Organ
Eddy's Swinging 50's Show
Darts Evening
Mind Reading Act: Billie & Trevor
George — John Haig on Organ
Golden Oldies Night
Bingo Night
Charity Night — George Elliott on Organ
Eddy's Swinging 50's Show
Darts Evening

Our Reserve Team play at home next Wednesday night when Exmouth Town are the visitors. Why not come along and watch our fine young team pictured below.



Standing: (left to right) Damien Rees, Jim Merdell, Andy Crook, Derek Bellotti, Tony Levy, Clint Boulton, Neale Marmion, Geoff Cox (Team Manager). Kneeling: Alan Bowden, Colin Williams, Dave Smith, Damien Keeley, Paul Chapman.

FINAL



alan merson

WORD

I was lucky enough to watch this season's F.A. Cup tie between Yeovil Town and Norwich City and was more than interested to take note of the Somerset club's facilities following my recent article on the Alliance Premier League. Undoubtedly the Huish Ground is well up to Football League standards, having cover on two sides, fully concreted terracing and a modern, good-sized grandstand. But the fact that, with a crowd of under 9,000 in a 14,000 capacity ground, two perimeter barriers collapsed must have been of some concern to the club's administration — it was hardly a good advert for Yeovil. But oh that slop! With their cup giant-killing record, and the fact that they made continuous applications for League membership from 1927 to 1976 backed up by good attendance records and having no other league club within forty miles, Yeovil's failure to attain League status must be put down to the nine foot drop from one side of their pitch to the other. Yet I got the feeling that the slip will always be there and that because of it Yeovil will always be where they are — a leading non-league club. The town is a regional centre for a rural population who savour the unique atmosphere of the ground on the hill. Yet a look at Yeovil's gates this season show that they only enjoy a regular following of around 1,300 these days, hardly a case for granting League membership. Thirteen hundred has emerged as the average attendance for Alliance Premier League matches this season and only Scarborough, Kettering and Worcester have been regularly drawing crowds of over 2,000, yet the business acumen of some of these clubs is there for all to see. Telford United announced a profit of £136,000 last financial year, Scarborough made £106,000; Altrincham £54,000 and Bath City £46,000. Without exception these figures have been attained by having fund raising set ups on a par with and better than many League clubs, coupled with the fact that they only employ small part-time playing staffs.

The leading A.P.L. clubs are spending their money well. Altrincham have spent £55,000 on ground improvements and upgrading of floodlights, while Scarborough opened a new £150,000 grandstand at the start of the new season, providing seating for 800 spectators. The most extensive developments have taken place at Buxton United's York Street ground (capacity 15,000). New floodlights, two cantilever stands holding 12,000, new toilets, turnstiles and snack bars and future plans for a third new stand and modernisation of the old one. They have spent £200,000 so far and it has all come out of their two lotteries one of which is solely for ground improvement finance. Stafford Rangers Marston Road holds 12,000 and boasts a £30,000 cantilever stand, new concrete terracing and improved floodlights. Other clubs who have made floodlighting improvements are: Barnet, Northwich, Weymouth, Telford and Worcester who have also constructed new entrances in a bid for an "A" rating for their ground. Former League strugglers Barrow are building a sports centre on their Holker Street ground and Maidstone United are continuing their long running improvements with eight squash courts.

Clearly with so much money being spent on facilities rather than the playing side these clubs have learned to live on gates of below 2,000. As the election of Wimbledon proved, non-league clubs no longer need to have big gate

potential in order to get into the Football League. What they do need, (and Oxford, Cambridge, Hereford and Wigan will all bear this out) is a thriving and professional outlook, coupled with a large or expanding local population, modern and adequate facilities and of course a good playing record. Although the latter is needed to elevate a club to League status it will never sustain them once in the League, for the novelty of League membership soon wears off — look at the gates at Hereford for instance!

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



S. DRIBBLING

Starting at (A) dribble round the course shown (30 yards x 10 yards).

At (B) dribble in and out of the skittles (2 yards apart).

At (C) play a 'wall' pass off the bench (or walls).

At (D) dribble completely round the post.

At (E) go in and out of the skittles (2 yards apart), turn and complete the course, as shown, or finish at (A).

Score: 1 successful trip.



A. KICKING

A and B stand in the end squares.

The ball must be kicked to clear the empty squares and the left foot and right foot must be used alternately. A and B must remain in their squares at all times.

Score: 2 out of 10 min. 1 for each foot.

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LES LAWRENCE	8	2	1	11	ALBERT LARMOUR	1	—	—	1
DONAL MURPHY	10	—	1	11	TONY LEVY	1	—	—	1
TOMMY SERMANNI	6	—	1	7	DAVE SMITH	1	—	—	1
RICHARD BOURNE	5	1	—	6	IAN TWITCHIN	1	—	—	1
ROY DAVIES	3	—	—	3	OWN GOALS	1	—	1	2
PETER COFFILL	2	—	—	2					

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- 8 Jeff Wright.....
- 9 Peter Houghton
- 10 Tony Quinn
- 11 George Urquhart
- 12 Derek Brownbill

OFFICIALS

REFEREE: COLIN DOWNEY (Hounslow). Began refereeing in 1965 and progressed via Middlesex F.A., Spartan and Isthmian Leagues to the Football League. Married with a son, he is a Systems Analyst in Computer business.

LINESMEN:

Red Flag: R.S.GRINDLAY (Ivybridge)
Yellow Flag: C.J.SMITH (Weston-S-Mare)

HERE NEXT

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PORT VALE
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